

1949

LIBRARY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WHITSTABLE.

July 1949.

To the Chairman and Members
of the WHITSTABLE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have to present to you my nineteenth Annual Report
as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of
Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	...	...	...	...	8,283 acres
" " " " (before 1934)	..	...	...	...	794 "
Population at Census 1931	...	...	...	...	10,820
" (estimated mid-1939)	...	...	...	...	15,620
" { " mid-1947)	...	...	...	...	16,601
" { " mid-1948)	...	...	...	...	17,210
Number of Houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,466
" " Inhabited houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,105
" " Inhabited houses 1948	...	...	...	...	7,000 (estimated)
" " Families or Separate Occupiers	...	...	...	...	3,327 (1931)
Rateable Value 1947	...	...	...	...	£142,279
Rateable Value 1948	...	...	...	...	£144,389
Sum represented by a penny rate 1947	...	...	...	...	£576
" " " " " " 1948	...	...	...	...	£586

The areas of wards (down to High Water Mark
Ordinary Tides) are as follows:-

Seasalter Ward	...	...	...	2,698 Acres
West Ward	...	...	...	434 "
Central Ward	...	...	...	145 "
South Ward	...	...	...	<u>1,646 "</u>
c/fwd:				<u>4,923 Acres</u>

Brought forward:-				4,923 Acres
Tankerton Ward	...	...	...	266 "
Swalecliffe Ward	...	...	...	<u>2,374 "</u>
				<u>7,563 Acres</u>

Area between High Water Mark Ordinary Tide and Low Water Mark Ordinary Tide as measured from 6" Ordnance Survey Map	2,333 Acres
--	-------------

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for mid-1947 was 16,601. This year it is 17,210, an increase of 609. The local Food Office estimate of the population, based on ration book issues, at December 1948 was 17,581. The two estimates approximate one another and show that the Registrar-General's estimate is now a reasonably accurate one; hitherto it was obviously too low. The steady increment of population since the war has continued through 1948.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

There is little change to report under this heading. The building trade is still the major industry of the town. Harbour traffic has not yet recovered to pre-war volume; boat building continues but less active than during the war, and the few small industries continue as before. There are no large industrial concerns in the town and no obnoxious trades.

The Council, in its effort to attract visitors, contemplate an increase of its entertainment programme for the summer, but Whitstable's claims as a health resort will continue to rest on the undoubtedly beneficial results of its clean and invigorating air, both to invalids and healthy alike, and to the restful quiet which has made its name as a residential resort.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - These are as follows:-

			Acreage	
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes	...	...	25.1	
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts	...	...	1	
Tankerton Castle	...	...	4	
Westgate Terrace	...	...	0.66	
Westcliff Slopes	...	...	2.5	
West Beach Tennis Courts	...	...	1	
Westmeads Recreation Ground	...	...	5	
War Memorial	...	...	0.1	
Belmont Sports Ground	...	...	6.8	
Fox's Cross	...	...	4	
Prospect House Field	...	...	6.52	
Duncan Downs	...	...	1.91	58.59
			<hr/>	
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds etc...	...	...	44.79	
Playing Fields	...	...	13.8	
			<hr/>	
			58.59	
			<hr/>	

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Totals	Males	Females	Total for 1947
<u>Live Births</u>	279	145	134	(330)

Legitimate	263	137	126	(317)
Illegitimate	16	8	8	(13)

<u>Still Births</u>	7	3	4	(7)

Legitimate	6	3	3	(6)
Illegitimate	1	-	1	(1)

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1947
Live Births	... 16.2	(19.8)
Still Births	... 0.40	(0.42)

The birth rate is lower than last year because of the reduced number of births and increased population, but it is much above the average for the district although less than for the country. The number of births exceeds deaths by 18; a small margin, but in pre-war years it was invariably less than the number of deaths. The war years and intense industrial activity within travelling distance of the town brought many young people of marriagable age here and this was responsible for altering the trend of vital statistics. It would now seem that we are gradually returning to the character of population which existed before 1939.

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females	Total for 1947.
261	118	143	(306)

The death rate per 1,000 population is:-

Rate for 1947.

Crude death rate	... 15.1	(18.4)
------------------	----------	--------

There was a not inconsiderable drop in the number of deaths in 1948 compared with 1947; from 306 to 261. Reference to the table giving chief causes of deaths for the last ten years will show the class of conditions which have been responsible for the drop. In particular, deaths from respiratory diseases dropped from 24 to 9; the mild winter was responsible for this.

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1948:-

	Males	Females
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	4	3
Other forms of T.B.	1	-
Syphilitic diseases	1	-
Influenza	1	1
Cancer of buc.cav. and Oesophagus	1	-
Cancer of uterus	-	-
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	2
Cancer of Breast	-	4
Cancer of other sites	19	17
Diabetes	2	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	24
Heart disease	33	54
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	3
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
Diarrhoea under two years	-	-
Appendicitis	2	-
Other digestive diseases	-	4
Nephritis	9	8
Puerpural and post- abort: sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	1
Premature births	3	1
Congenital malformations	2	3
Suicide	-	2
Road traffic accidents	-	1
Other violent causes	2	2
All other causes	8	5

ALL CAUSES - MALES 118 FEMALES 143

Year	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	All Causes
1939	-	8	11	13	64	110	269
1940	1	10	17	6	30	80	248
1941	1	7	19	8	46	62	237
1942	1	5	12	2	34	107	220
1943	-	7	16	10	33	106	222
1944	1	3	11	5	42	106	220
1945	-	4	10	-	32	145	239
1946	-	7	15	7	48	119	267
1947	-	5	24	-	45	165	306
1948	-	8	9	2	47	131	261

The transferred deaths were:-

Inward: 43 Outward: 15

The age distribution of total deaths was:-

Under 1-2 1 yr. yrs	2-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15-25 yrs	25-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 and upwards
13	1	-	1	-	6	43
						197

Of the deaths over 65, 32 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 85 between 70 and 80, 65 between 80 and 90, and 15 over 90.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis but one from other maternal causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:-

	Total	Males	Females	Totals for 1947
Legitimate	13	8	5	(9)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(1)

Infantile Mortality Rates are as follows:-

		(Rates for 1947)
All infants per 1000 live births	46.5	(30.3)
Legitimate infants per 1000		
legitimate births	49.8	(28.4)
Illegitimate infants per 1000		
illegitimate births	00.0	(77.7)

The ages at and causes of death under one year were as follows:-

6 hrs	...	Cerebral haemorrhage
9 "	...	Meningitis
10 "	...	Pregnancy toxaemia
16 "	...	Prematurity
1 day	...	Atelectasis
2 days	...	Pregnancy toxaemia
4 days	...	Icterus gravis neonatorum
1 week	...	Imperforate anus. Acute intestinal obstrn.
1 week	...	Prematurity. Lobar pneumonia
2 weeks	...	Broncho-pneumonia
3 "	...	Asphyxia
2 months	...	Broncho-pneumonia
6 "	...	Accidental

TOTAL: ... 13.

The infantile mortality rate of 46.5 per 1000 live births is high for a residential class of area, and much higher than the rate for England and Wales, viz., 34 per 1000 live births.

There were no deaths among illegitimate births

TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948

	(1) W H I T S T A B L E	(2) England a n d Wales	(3) 126 County Boro's & Great Towns Includ- ing London	(4) 148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	(5) London Admin- istra- tive County
BIRTHS	Rates per 1000 Civilian Population				
Live	16.2	17.9	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still	0.41	0.42	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS					
All Causes	15.1	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.46	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Influenza	0.11	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	0.00	--	--	--	--
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.29	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.98	1.73	1.9	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.48	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	1.29	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	--	--	--	--
Measles	1.85	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.87	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
W	England	126	148	London
H	and	County	Smaller	Admin-
I	Wales	Boro's	Towns	istra-
T		& Great	Resident	tive
S		Towns	Populat-	County
T		includ-	ions	
A		ing	25,000 to	
B		London	50,000 at	
L			1931 Census	
E				

Rates per 1000 Live Births

Deaths under 1 year of age.	46.5	34	39	32	31
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	0.00	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4

Rates per 1000 Total (live and still) Births

NOTIFICATIONS:-

Puerpural fever and Pyrexia	0.05	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34
-----------------------------	------	------	------	------	------

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

A classified summary of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors is as follows:-

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	4,257
Inspection of dwelling houses.	...	...	...	...	1,408
" " shops	...	...	...	...	134
" " factories.	...	...	...	...	124
" " bakehouses	...	...	...	...	35
" " dairies and cowsheds..	...	...	...	...	183
" " camping sites etc	...	...	...	...	154
" " ice cream premises and taking samples	...	...	...	...	168
" " food preparing rooms and cafes	...	...	...	...	186
" " food premises...	...	...	...	...	143
" " unsound food	...	...	...	...	115
" " infected houses.	...	...	...	...	61
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	606
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	198
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	742

Number of complaints received	...	...	356	
" " notices served - Preliminary...			155	
" " " " Statutory	...		14	Total: 169
" " " complied with by persons responsible	...	...	96	
" " " complied with by Council in default	...	...	Nil	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

This consists of myself, Medical Officer of Health; Mr.F.W.I.Whitehouse, Chief Sanitary Inspector; Mr.G.W.Carr, Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr.P.K.Marsh, General Assistant, and Miss Slingsbury, Clerk.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements remain as described in previous reports, and I should like to again express my appreciation for the services rendered by the staff of the County Public Health Laboratory.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

During the year scarlet fever cases have been sent to Herne Bay and Whitstable Joint Isolation Hospital - other cases of infectious disease having been sent to Dartford Hospital. This arrangement is of a temporary nature only.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The main source of water supply to the Urban District is the Canterbury Water Co., with a small portion of the area (Yorkletts and part of Seasalter) by the Mid-Kent Water Co. A number of areas with sporadic development rely on rain water and scattered throughout the district approximately 90 houses have shallow wells.

Samples of the public supply taken during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extensive scheme of sewerage for the whole area, including re-sewering parts of the district to prevent flooding have continued to receive the consideration of the Council, but there is nothing to add to my report of last year.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The work of supervising house refuse collection and disposal is carried on by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Disposal continues to take place in a valley running down to the marshes at Seasalter, about 8 acres in extent. Approach is by the Coastal Road and the average haul is $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

HOUSING

During the year the Council has maintained house building progress so that at all times the maximum number permitted, 50 in all, have been under construction by the Council and by private builders under licence. The numbers of houses erected during the year are as follows:-

Number of houses erected by Council	...	26 36
" " " " " private		
enterprise...		20 25'

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifiable infectious disease cases during 1948 and the four years previous:-

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>
Scarlet Fever	17	6	7	19	19
Diphtheria	-	-	2	2	13
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	2	1	-
Erysipelas	22	5	12	12	5
Pneumonia	15	22	31	14	15
Tuberculosis (Pul:)	6	9	12	9	9
" (other forms)	5	9	7	6	6

(Comtd)	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>
Dysentery	-	1	-	4	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	3	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-
Puerpural Fever)	1	2	-	3	2
" Pyrexia)					
Measles	32	217	151	205	70
Whooping Cough	22	88	40	35	44
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria (recurrent)	-	1	-	-	-

It will be seen that measles notifications have for the first time since 1944 shown a considerable reduction. Whooping cough was also less prevalent, but Scarlet Fever increased. The district enjoyed a year of relatively little infectious disease and no outbreaks of any magnitude.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION ETC

All registers kept of children immunised by private practitioners and at the Child Welfare Clinic were transferred to the County Health Department during the year. Full details of every child immunised since the inception of the campaign during the last war had been kept.

T U B E R C U L O S I S 1948

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Cases on Register at commencement of 1948	58	36	24	39	157
Cases notified during 1948	5	1	2	3	11
Cases restored to Register during 1948	-	-	-	-	-
Other Additions	3	5	-	1	9
Cases removed from Register during 1948	8	5	3	8	24
Cases remaining on register at end of 1948	58	37	23	35	153

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality 1948

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
55 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 years and up	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	5	1	2	3	4	3	-	-

CONCLUSION

I would like to express my thanks to Mr.Whitehouse, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable help he has given me through the year. His work all through has been very thorough, under rather trying conditions, and he has been ably assisted by Mr.Carr, Assistant Sanitary Inspector. I would also like to express my thanks to Miss Slingsbury for her help in the clerical part of the work, and finally, I would express to you Mr.Chairman, and the members of the Council, my thanks for the courtesy with which you have invariably treated me.

Your obedient Servant,

Charles E.Etheridge, M.B.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health

RECEIVED WHITSTABLE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GATE LODGE,
THE CASTLE,
WHITSTABLE.

August 1949.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report
of the work carried out by my Department during the
year 1948.

GENERAL

Total number of inspections made was 4,257, made
up as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	35
Dairies	...	...	...	114
Milk Samples	...	...	...	83
Cowsheds	...	...	...	69
Ice Cream Premises and sampling	...	...	...	168
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	79
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	48
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	157
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	29
Fishfryers	...	...	...	16
Dwellinghouses(P.H.A) 1st visit	...	...	...	410
Dwellinghouses(P.H.A) re-visit	...	...	...	164
Dwellinghouses(Housing Act)	...	...	...	36
Council House Applicants and Overcrowding cases	...	...	...	220
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	35
Camping Sites etc.	...	...	...	121
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	33
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	58

Re-visits and Works in Progress	...	...	489
Drainage	...	...	102
Drains Tested	...	...	38
Cesspools	...	...	33
Keeping of Animals	...	...	47
Rodent Control	...	...	606
Slaughterhouses	...	...	3
Meat Inspection	...	...	15
Petroleum	...	...	40
Smoke Observation	...	...	22
Swimming Pools	...	...	5
Boats	...	...	3
Infectious Diseases	...	...	39
Public Conveniences	...	...	28
Factories Act (Mechanical power)	...	...	95
Factories Act (Non-mechanical power)	...	...	29
Shops Acts	...	...	119
Shops Acts (Evening inspections)	...	...	15
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	5
Water Samples	...	...	4
Requisitioning	...	...	119
Unsound Food	...	...	115
Bedding and Disinfection.	...	...	26
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	...	...	198
Evacuation	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	183

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following Notices were served:-

Number of Informal Notices	...	...	155
Number of Statutory Notices	...	...	14

With the following result:-

Number of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	...	...	85
Total number of Notices completed	...	...	96

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	31
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	56
Floors ventilated	...	...	...	3
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	29
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	60
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	9
Stoves repaired and renewed	...	...	...	12
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	47
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	31
Fireplaces repaired and renewed	...	...	...	14
Drains relaid and repaired	...	...	...	12
Drains cleared	...	...	...	27
W.C's repaired	...	...	...	32
W.C's provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	2
Ceiling and wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	64
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	35

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	446
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	610
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations			NIL
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	NIL
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	NIL

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 155

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 85

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:- NIL

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 14

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... 11

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... NIL

3. C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... NIL

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... NIL

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:- ... NIL

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 104

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 193

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein. 579

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	3
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved			31
(d)	Number of persons concerned in such cases			108
(e)	Number of new cases of overcrowding..			24

New Houses During 1948

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during the year	...	...	71
(b)	Total number of houses erected during 1948	...	...	71
(c)	Houses erected by Local Authority	...		36
(d)	Houses erected by other persons	...		25
(e)	War damaged houses rebuilt	...	...	10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are seventeen registered cowkeepers in the area, five of whom are producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and four producers of Accredited milk.

The retail distribution is carried out by five purveyors, four with premises inside the district and one without.

Four dealers bottling licences for Tuberculin Tested milk and one Dealer's licence for Pasteurised milk were issued by the Council.

102 samples were taken as hereunder:-

- (i) From Tuberculin Tested Producers (5) - 29, of which 7 failed to reach the standard.
- (ii) From Accredited Producers (4) - 20, of which 3 failed to reach the standard.
- (iii) From Retail Purveyors (5) - 53.

MEAT SUPPLIES

The majority of home killed meat is received from the Ministry of Food controlled public abattoir at Plumstead. Allocation of the meat is carried out locally at a central

slaughterhouse where it is received from the South Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association at Canterbury. Previous to slaughtering control there were operating in the town seven private slaughterhouses, two being registered and five licensed.

A meeting was convened by the Canterbury Council during the year which was attended by representatives of this Council and those of Herne Bay, Ashford, Sandwich and intervening rural areas, to consider the establishment of a public abattoir within the Canterbury area. This area was subsequently reduced to comprise that of Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Bridge-Blean.

Until the transference of local slaughtering to the London area, slaughtering was being carried out at the Ministry of Food controlled private slaughterhouse at Canterbury under very unsatisfactory conditions, which were far from hygienic and which resulted in the change taking place.

The fact that the nearest suitable available slaughterhouse is situated in the metropolitan area would stress the desirability of action being taken to ensure that when meat supplies increase, adequate, suitable and satisfactory slaughtering facilities will be available within easy access of the town, and should such not be the case, utilisation would require to be made of the existing private slaughterhouses which have fallen into disuse and disrepair.

Before proceeding with their scheme the Canterbury Council naturally require to know that on the relinquishing of slaughtering control, their abattoir would continue to be put to fullest possible use, and the suggestion was made that a united district might be formed under Section 76 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and Section 6 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The Council have agreed to support the Canterbury City Council in this project subject to fuller details being available before reaching a final decision.

FOOD HYGIENE

A considerable number of inspections were carried out in this connection, particular attention being

devoted to restaurant kitchens, major structural improvements being carried out during the year.

Pamphlets embodying hints to food handlers were issued to all food preparing establishments.

Close liaison is maintained with the Food Office in connection with the issue of catering licences, their practice being to require a written letter from this Department stating that an inspection has been made and that the premises comply, or can be made to comply, with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following table shows the amount of Unsound Food condemned during the year:-

				lbs
Meat	...	...	...	379
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	487
Fish	...	...	...	1,621
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	94
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	98
Cheese	...	...	...	7
Fruit	...	...	...	429
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	185
Jam	...	...	...	24
Confectionery	...	...	...	13
Sugar	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	279
				<hr/>
				3,635 lbs
				<hr/>

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC) REGULATIONS 1947

At the end of 1948 ice cream was being manufactured at thirteen of the total number of premises registered for that purpose. Twenty-one of the total number registered for the sale only of ice cream were operating in the district. To date an additional twenty-three purveyors of ice cream have been registered.

Thirty samples of ice cream were taken during the year, all of which were found to be free from disease producing organisms. The results of the methylene blue test in some instances denoted that further improvements could be effected in the manufacture of the ice cream, due in the main to the inability of the manufacturers, owing to absence of equipment, to cool their hot mix sufficiently quickly to prevent the growth of organisms.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948. SECTION 47.

This Section enables the Council, upon the certificate of their Medical Officer of Health, to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for the removal of any person living in insanitary conditions and who is not being cared for and who is physically incapacitated.

This particular type of problem has always been exceedingly difficult to deal with inasmuch as it has not been possible to effect the removal of persons without obtaining their prior consent, even though the conditions under which they were living called for such action.

The Medical Officer submitted a certificate to the Council towards the end of the year to the effect that a person living in the district was physically incapacitated and living in very insanitary conditions and unable to look after herself.

The Council duly applied to the Justices and an Order was obtained for a detention period of two months at residential accommodation, which was made available by the County Council. Such an Order may not be made for a period exceeding three months, although the period may be exceeded upon further application.

A certificate was also submitted by myself under Section 84 of the Public Health Act 1936, to the effect that certain articles were in such a filthy condition as to render their destruction necessary, as a result of which the necessary authority was received enabling me to remove and destroy the said articles.

A temporary improvement upon the old conditions was maintained for a short time, and the occupant arranged for the partial re-deccoration of the rooms, but constant supervision is necessary to ensure that conditions do not arise which will require a repetition of the procedure already outlined.

WHITSTABLE U.D.C. ACT 1948

The Whitstable U.D.C. Bill was promoted during the year under review and received Royal Assent on July 1st. Proofs of evidence to prove local need were prepared

upon those sections relating to the Public Health Department for presentation to the Hearing at the House of Commons. A few of the most important public health provisions are appended below:-

Food storage accommodation to be provided in new and existing houses.

Cellars not to be constructed below sub-soil water level.

Means of access to houses to be provided for removal of refuse.

Special powers to expedite drainage repairs and to test drains.

Additional provisions to obtain information in the case of notifiable diseases, and the taking of additional steps to prevent spread of infection.

Prohibition on sale of verminous furniture or clothing.

Registration of hawkers of food and their premises.

Additional control of persons with advanced tuberculosis engaged in the cooking, preparation or handling of food.

Additional precautions to prevent contamination of food by animals, insects, etc., or any contaminated substance.

Additional powers for making byelaws in connection with camping grounds.

CONTROL OF MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are thirteen licensed camping sites in the area, comprising approximately 60 acres and providing accommodation for 871 movable dwellings. Licenses are issued on an annual basis and are subject to the observance of various conditions aimed at securing a high standard of hygiene. Sites are well patronised during the season, and are no doubt becoming a permanent feature of the town.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 69 factories on the Register, 48 of which use mechanical power.

Ten infringements were encountered when making inspections, seven of which were remedied during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

The administration of the Shops Acts is carried out by this department, powers having been delegated to this authority by the County Council. A separate report has already been made to the Council in this connection.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Twenty-seven licenses were issued during the year in connection with the storage of petroleum spirit.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of household refuse is maintained, being carried out by two vehicles manned by a driver and two loaders respectively. A third vehicle is available in the event of a breakdown, and is utilised on one day of every week in carrying out a special paper collection.

These two freighters have since been replaced by two new Karrier C.K.3. vehicles; the methods of loading being top side loading with sliding metal covers and rear loading with moving floor. Their respective capacities are 10 and 12 cu.yds.

Collection of trade refuse is also undertaken, that of an offensive nature being collected as often as requisite.

Salvage is collected at the same time as domestic refuse, a compartment being provided in the moving floor vehicle and a trailer being attached to the second.

Byelaws have been made by the Council to facilitate the work of collection.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal is effected at the Council's Tip at Yorkletts, and is carried out as far as possible in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. It is proving exceedingly difficult to provide for sufficient sealing of the refuse owing to the almost complete dearth of soil or other suitable material, occasioned by the shortage of building and road work operations.

The Tip is regularly sprayed and the incidence of flies and other insects is kept at a low level.

The principal items salvaged during the year are as under:-

	Tons	cwts	qrs	lbs
Rags ...	1	14	-	7
Non-ferrous Metals	-	-	3	6
Ferrous Metals ...	7	11	-	-
Bones ...	-	6	-	20
Paper ...	94	11	2	-
Bottles and Jars..			716 $\frac{1}{2}$	dozen

The total revenue accruing to the Council for this period being £741. 1. 10.

RODENT CONTROL

Following is a summary of the work carried out in connection with Rodent Control:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	100	
Number of Infestations found	...	...	95	.. Major - Minor 95
Infestations found as a result of independent investigations	...	Major	1	
		Minor	41	

Infestations treated by Council's Operator	...	...	132
Infestations treated by occupiers.	...	...	4

NOTE Major infestations denote twenty rats or more.

Maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out on two occasions, a test bait preceding the second maintenance treatment, with the following results:-

No 3. Maintenance Treatment - 19th to 21st January 1948.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	32
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take...				15
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...	...	...	5

Test Baiting Treatment - 19th to 20th July 1948.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	37
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take...				15

No 4. Maintenance Treatment - 17th August to 11th September 1948.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	309
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take...				58
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...	...	...	23

The Refuse Tip and Sewage Works are regularly treated and infestation kept at an extremely low level. All work is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and is such as to rank for grant aid. Work on private dwellings is carried out free of charge and pro rata payment is required in the case of business premises.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Routine action was taken during the summer months for the spraying of dykes and pools throughout the district, with beneficial results.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary is situated at Island Wall Depot, and assistance is afforded Medical Practitioners conducting post mortem examinations.

A major improvement effected during the year was the installation of a white glazed fireclay post mortem table.

The following bodies were removed to the Mortuary:-

	Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted - Resident ...	6	10
Number of bodies admitted - Non-resident..	1	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

Number of bodies admitted for post mortem examinations..	...	16
Number of inquests	...	9

CAUSES OF DEATH:-

Natural Causes	...	...	12
Misadventure	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	<u>2</u>
			18

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The Council's steam Disinfecting Station is situated at Station Road, the following articles being fumigated during the year:-

Beds	...	...	13
Mattresses	...	...	260
Pillows	...	...	640
Bolsters	...	...	21
Blankets	...	...	<u>108</u>
c/fwd	...		<u>1042</u>

- 14 -

Brought forward:-	...	...	1042
Sheets	...	...	31
Cushions	...	...	9
Quilts	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	10
			<hr/>
			1108
			<hr/>

The number of rooms disinfected during the year is as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	16
Tuberculosis	...	...	11
Cancer	...	...	1
Anterio Poliomyelitis..	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	34
			<hr/>
			67
			<hr/>

The revenue accruing to the Council in connection with charges made for disinfection is £22.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and encouragement, to Dr.Etheridge for his advice and help, to my staff for their loyal and conscientious assistance, and for the co-operation extended by Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I.WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

